

Historical Dictionary of Djibouti

Daoud A. Alwan
Yohanis Mibrathu

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1989 to 1993	Ismaël Ali Youssouf
February 1993 to March 1996	Ahmed Boullaleh Barreh (dismissed)
March 1996 to April 1999	Abdallah Chirwa Djibril
Since May 1999	Ougoureh Kifle Ahmed

Ministers of the Interior

July 1977 to September 1978	Moumin Bahdon Farah
October 1978 to July 1982	Idriss Farah Abaneh (died in office)
October 1982 to 1986	Youssouf Ali Chirdon (died in office)
May 1986 to February 1991	Khaireh Allaleh Hared (dismissed)
May 1991 to February 1993	Ahmed Boulalah Bareh
February 1993 to March 1997	Idriss Harbi Farah
March 1997 to April 1999	Elmi Obsieh Waïss
Since May 1999	Abdallah Abdillahi Miguil

Ministers of Foreign Affairs

July 1977 to September 1978	Abdallah Mohamed Kamil (also prime minister)
October 1978 to February 1993	Moumin Bahdon Farah
February 1993 to December 1997	Abdou Bolock Abdou
December 1997 to May 1999	Mohamed Moussa Chehem
Since May 1999	Ali Abdi Farah

Bibliography

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACCT	Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique
ADEN	Association Djibouti Espace Nomade
BCAF	<i>Bulletin du Comité de l'Afrique Française</i>
BCEOM	Bureau Central d'Etudes pour les Equipements d'Outre-Mer
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières
BSA	<i>Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie</i>
BSG	<i>Bulletin de la Société de Géologie</i>
BSGCB	<i>Bulletin de la Société de Géographie Coloniale de Bordeaux</i>
BSGCH	<i>Bulletin de la Société de Géographie Commerciale du Havre</i>
BSGE	<i>Bulletin de la Société de Géographie de l'Est</i>
BSGM	<i>Bulletin de la Société de Géographie de Marseille</i>
BSKG	<i>Bulletin de la Société Khédivale de Géographie</i>
BSNG	<i>Bulletin de la Société Normande de Géographie</i>
CEA	<i>Cahier d'Etudes Africaines</i>
CEAN	Centre d'Etude sur l'Afrique Noire
CEGD	Centre d'Etudes Géologiques et de Développement
CHEAM	Centre des Hautes Etudes sur l'Afrique et l'Asie Moderne
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
CQRI	Centre Québécois de Relations Internationales
CRAS	<i>Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences</i>
DEA	Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies
DESS	Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées
EHES	Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
ENFOM	Ecole Nationale de la France d'Outre-Mer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICES	International Conference on Ethiopian Studies
IEMVT	Institut d'Etudes de Médecine Vétérinaire Tropicale
IEP	Institut d'Etudes Politiques
IES	Institute of Ethiopian Studies
IHPOM	Institut d'Histoire des Pays d'Outre-Mer

IJAHS	<i>International Journal of African Historical Studies</i>
INALCO	Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales
ISERST	Institut Supérieur d'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques et Techniques
JAH	<i>Journal of African History</i>
JAS	<i>Journal of African Studies</i>
JATBA	<i>Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale et de Botanique Appliquée</i>
JES	<i>Journal of Ethiopian Studies</i>
JGEG	<i>Jahresbericht der Geographisch Ethnographischen Gesellschaft in Zürich</i>
JORD	<i>Journal Officiel de la République de Djibouti</i>
JORF	<i>Journal Officiel de la République Française</i>
JRGS	<i>Journal of the Royal Geographic Society</i>
JSA	<i>Journal de la Société des Africanistes</i>
JSPS	<i>Journal of Social and Political Studies</i>
MTPUL	Ministère des Travaux Publics de l'Urbanisme et du Logement
ONTA	Office National du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat
RC	<i>Revue Coloniale</i>
RFEP	<i>Revue Française d'Etudes Politiques Africaines</i>
RFHOM	<i>Revue Française d'Histoire d'Outre-Mer</i>
RPGD	<i>Revue de Géographie Physique et de Géographie Dynamique</i>
RGSJ	<i>Royal Geographical Society Journal</i>
RHA	<i>Revue Historique des Armées</i>
RHCF	<i>Revue de l'Histoire des Colonies Françaises</i>
RIS	<i>Revue Internationale de Sociologie</i>
RSGB	<i>Revue de la Société de Géographie de Bordeaux</i>
RSGCP	<i>Revue de la Société de Géographie Commerciale de Paris</i>
SCET	Société Centrale pour l'Équipement des Territoires
SGAC	Société Générale de l'Aviation Civile
SHAA	Services Historiques de l'Armée de l'Air

INTRODUCTION

One of the first difficulties encountered in writing this work was the scantiness of available documentation related to the subject. The imbalance existing among the various categories in the bibliography reflects this difficulty. This lack of documentation is due to the way in which various

historical periods were handled by the few researchers who became interested in Djibouti's history. Thus, aspects relating to the French colonial period are rather well documented because of the existence of colonial archives. In that regard, the numerous international, regional, or local crises have given researchers the opportunity to proceed to an inventory of the existing literature and produce better documented historical studies on that period.

The imbalance affecting the documentary sources also reflects the one that exists between 100 years of colonialism and the two decades of existence as an independent state. Unsurprisingly, the overwhelming portion of the primary and secondary literature is in French, with also a smattering in Italian, due to Italy's colonial interests. Works in these and other European languages are included in the bibliography, but not works in Arabic.

Articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers, rather than larger monographs and books, provided much of the information on the period of independence. Where appropriate, doctoral dissertations and master's theses at various universities, especially those in France, are included. However, many more can certainly be found; of particular interest are those by Djiboutian students studying in France and other countries.

A useful introduction to the precolonial history is certainly Jean Dorresse's *Histoire Sommaire de la Corne Orientale de l'Afrique* (Paris: Paul Geuthner, 1971). This comprehensive study of the Horn of Africa presents a detailed picture of the region from antiquity to the eve of World War II. Philippe Oberlé and Pierre Hugot's *Histoire de Djibouti: des Origines à la République* (Paris: Présence Africaine, 1985) is a valuable account of the colonial period with, in its latest edition, a short study on the first decade after independence. Based on a thorough scrutiny of the colonial archives, Colette Dubois's *Djibouti, 1887-1967. Héritage Ou Frustration ?* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1997) provides researchers with a well-documented chronicle on the colony's gradual development and interesting leads yet to be explored. Virginia Thompson and Richard Adloff's *Djibouti and the Horn of Africa* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1968) is among the scarce comprehensive studies on the region written in English. More recently published, Ali Coubba's *Le Mal Djiboutien* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1996) is rich with information on the decades after independence.

For a detailed study on the native populations of the Republic of Djibouti, Adou Abdallah's *The Afar: A Nation on Trial* (Stockholm: Abdallah A. Adou, 1993) and I. M. Lewis's *Peoples of the Horn of Africa: Somali, Afar and Saho* (London: International African Institute, 1955) are among the most useful works.

ARCHIVES

For those interested in conducting in-depth historical studies on the Republic of Djibouti, the archives held by the following institutions may be a valuable starting point:

- Le Centre National de Documentation (CND). This Djiboutian institution archives the copies of the former *Le Réveil de Djibouti* and the current weekly government paper, *La Nation*.
- The archives of the Chambre Internationale de Commerce et d'Industrie de Djibouti consist essentially of correspondence between some of the economic and, sometimes, political actors in the former colony's early days. (Chambre Internationale de Commerce et d'Industrie de Djibouti, P.O. Box 84 Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti. Web site: www.intnet.dj/public/cicid).
- The archives of the British Public Records Office located in Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW94DU, United Kingdom, are particularly well stocked.
- The main institution in France is the Centre d'Accueil et de Recherche des Archives Nationales (60, rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75141 Paris Cedex 03). However, most of the documents concerning French former colonies are stocked in the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer (29, Chemin du Moulin de Testa, 13090, Aix-en-Provence).

Other interesting archive institutions are the Archives du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères (Quai d'Orsay, Paris) and the Service Historique de la Marine and the Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre (SHAT), both located in Paris, Château de Vincennes.

In this age of electronic communication, this bibliographical tool would not be complete if we forgot to mention Web sites that provide users with instant information on the country. The following are among the most useful sites:

- The site of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (www.igad.org) publishes regular press releases on the member countries.
- The site of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (www.francophonie.org/pays/djibouti.htm) has a directory for Djibouti.
- The Djibouti page hosted by the University of Pennsylvania site (www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/country_specific/Djibouti) is interesting for the various links it provides.

- Information on the country's diplomatic relations can be found on the official site of the Embassy of Djibouti in France (www.amb-djibouti.org).

GENERAL

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